

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 153163 TOSEC 070070
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:LEPOPE:JD
APPROVED BY NEA:HNSAUNDERS
SY:VDIKEOS
NEA:MDRAPER
S/S SGOLDSMITH

-----089925 160156Z /62

O 160113Z JUN 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 153163 TOSEC 070070

NODIS
FOR SECRETARY FROM SAUNDERS AND DIKEOS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR PARKER'S RETURN TO BEIRUT

1. YOU HAD ASKED TO BE KEPT INFORMED REGARDING DICK PARKER'S RETURN TO BEIRUT. WE RE-ASSESSED THE PRESENT THREAT AND, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH SY, EMBASSY BEIRUT AND CIA, WE AGREED THAT PARKER SHOULD RETURN BUT SHOULD DELAY HIS ARRIVAL IN BEIRUT UNTIL AFTER THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON HAD TAKEN PLACE ON JUNE 13. HE IS SCHEDULED NOW TO FLY IN FROM ROME ON JUNE 17/18.

2. WE ARE TODAY AGAIN REVIEWING THE SITUATION CAUSED BY THE MURDER OF TONY FRANGIEH TO SEE WHETHER A FURTHER DELAY IS WARRANTED.

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3. WE ARE TAKING WHAT ACTION WE CAN TO DEAL WITH THE RISKS. PARKER HAS AGREED TO CURTAIL HIS MOVEMENTS. HE WILL BE OPERATING MOST OF THE TIME FROM THE RELATIVELY SECURE RESIDENCE RATHER THAN FROM THE CHANCERY.

4. AT THIS TIME, WE BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE AN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT INSTEAD OF LOWERING THE U.S. PROFILE

BY LEAVING THE MISSION IN THE HANDS OF A CHARGE. PARKER HAS GREAT INFLUENCE WITH LEBANESE LEADERS AND THIS INFLUENCE WILL HAVE TO BE EXERTED REGULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE SENSITIVE AND EVOLVING SOUTH LEBANON PROBLEMS. WE WILL, HOWEVER, WISH TO MAKE NEW ASSESSMENTS LATER IN THE SUMMER.

5. A MEMO ON THE RATIONALE FOR KEEPING AN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT AT THIS TIME WILL BE SENT TO YOU ON YOUR RETURN TO WASHINGTON.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNNN

Message Attributes

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